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IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, after the title; Insert:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Page 1, lines 1-3, after the title, amend as follows:

The invention relates to a device for the variable actuation of the gas-exchange valves of internal combustion engines ~~corresponding to the introductory~~

Page 2, last paragraph, amend as follows:

~~Pursuant to the invention, this objective is accomplished by the distinguishing features of claim 1. Advantageous further developments are described in claims 2 to 21.~~ Preferably, the bolt, on which the intermediate link is mounted, is constructed simultaneously as an adjusting shaft. For this purpose, it is provided with cam discs and is mounted freely rotatable or in hinged columns, in a four-bar mechanism or in a sliding element. The cam discs are fastened non-rotatably on the bolt. The cam discs are supported directly or indirectly at the housing. If the support is direct, sliding blocks of a material of greater strength may be provided in the housing for the cam discs. By rotating the adjusting shaft with a suitable adjusting agent, such as an adjusting motor, the desired valve lifting cam is set. Since the adjusting agent, such as an adjusting motor, usually is fastened to the housing, the bolt or control shaft, however, shifting during the adjusting motion parallel to itself, a connecting element must be disposed between the two, which permits this shifting. Depending on the space conditions, this connecting element may be an articulated shaft, a Schmidt coupling, an Oldham coupling or also a gearwheel or chain gear mechanism. If the actuation is hydraulic, a lever mechanism is also available.

Page 5, after line 2, insert:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

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Page 5, before first full paragraph, insert:

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Page 5, first full paragraph, line 4, amend as follows:

Figure 1 shows a camshaft 1, which carries a cam 2. This moves the roll 3 in the end region of the intermediate link 4. The roll 3 is fastened rotatably at the intermediate link 4, which has a one-part basic body. The intermediate link 4 has a control cam 5, which is composed of a pause region 5a and a lifting region 5b. The intermediate link 4 is mounted on a bolt 6, the axis 7 of which is guided on a circular adjusting cam 8. The center of the circular adjusting cam 8 lines on the axis 9 of the roll 10 of the power take-off element 11, which is supported over a joint 12 in the housing, which is not shown, and actuates the valve 13. It can be seen clearly that an adjustment of the axis 7 and of the adjusting cam 8 in the direction of arrow 14 results in a decrease in the opening angle and in the lift of the valve 13.